

## Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

PRS-01 EURE-00 /041 W

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P R 251022Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO MARBKS NAPLES IT PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7606

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI GR

NAVLEGSVCBROFF ATHENS

CMC WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

NAVY JAG WASHDC

NAVLEGSVCOFF NAPLES IT

MARSECURITYGRD BN WASHDC

NAVSUPPACT NAPLES IT

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1538

E.O. 11562: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, MKI, OGEN

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT IN CASE OF  
TELESFORO SANCHEZ

REF: MARBKS NAPLES 191551Z FEB 75 (NOTAL)

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOTIVE IN REQUEST, TRANSMITTED IN  
REFTEL, THAT SANCHEZ BE RELEASED FROM PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT  
TO RESTRICTED STATUS EFFECTIVE FEB. 28 WAS TO PRECLUDE DIS-  
MISSAL BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE SPEEDY TRIAL OF ANY  
CHARGES WHICH MIGHT BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM IN A POSSIBLE  
COURT MARTIAL. ALTHOUGH WE FULLY SHARE THE INTEREST IN ENSURING  
THAT JUSTICE IS DONE, RELEASE OF SANCHEZ TO RESTRICTED  
STATUS WOULD APPEAR TO INVOLVE UNNECESSARY AND  
SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO OTHER US INTERESTS IN GREECE. IN  
ANY EVENT, GOG REACTION TO OUR RECENT APPROACH THROUGH  
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FONOFF SEEKING OFFICIAL COOPERATION IN COMPLETION OF

UCMJ ART. 32 INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN POSITIVE, AND WE  
HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO REPID PROGRESS.

2. LOCAL NATIONAL EMPLOYEES AT NAVCOMSTA NEA MAKRI  
ARE WELL AWARE OF IDENTITY OF SANCHEZ BECAUSE OF  
PUBLICITY GENERATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFENSE  
ALLEGED AGAINST HIM. THEREFORE, IT IS LIKELY HIS  
RELEASE FROM PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT WOULD BECOME PUBLIC  
KNOWLEDGE, INCLUDING FURTHER ADVERSE PRESS CONVERAGE.  
COMPOUNDING PROBLEM IS FACT THAT ONE OF MANY ISSUES IN  
GREECE IS US FORCES ABILITY TO RETAIN CUSTODY OF  
SERVICEMEN CHARGED WITH OFFENSES UNDER GREEK LAW UNTIL  
COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. THIS IS ONE OF  
PRINCIPAL BENEFITS TO US FORCES OF BILATERAL SOFA  
IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT OF SEPT. 7, 1956, ONE OF TWO  
AGREEMENTS WHICH GOG HAS SINGLED OUT AS REQUIRING  
REVISION OR ABOLITION. WE HOPE TO RETAIN THIS PARTI-  
CULAR PRACTICE, AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME RE  
ITS APPLICATION BY US FORCES COULD BE QUITE UNHELPFUL  
IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, AND BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING  
THAT FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST HIS PRESENT STATUS  
WOULD NOT JUSTIFY DISMISSAL OF ANY CHARGES AGAINST HIM,  
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST SANCHEZ' RELEASE FROM  
CONFINEMENT. WE ARE PREPARED, OF COURSE, TO RECONSIDER  
THIS RECOMMENDATION AT ANY TIME IF THE PREMISE ON WHICH  
IT IS BASED WERE TO BECOME QUESTIONABLE.  
KUBISCH

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